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AN ASSESSEMENT OF ACQUISITION AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES: A STUDY OF JOSEPH AYO BABALOLA UNIVERSITY IKEJI – ARAKEJI, NIGERIA

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**AN ASSESSEMENT OF ACQUISITION AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN ACADEMIC
LIBRARIES: A STUDY OF JOSEPH AYO BABALOLA UNIVERSITY
IKEJI – ARAKEJI, NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

This study assesses the Acquisition and Collection Development Activities in academic Libraries in Nigeria with attention on the experiences of Joseph Ayo Babalola University Library, Ikeji - Arakeji. Six research questions steered the study. An Assessment Survey Design was espoused in carrying out the study. The total population for this study was three hundred and sixty-seven (367) respondents comprising of lecturers, students, library and administrative staff of the university and other users of the library. The major instrument for data collection was questionnaire. Three hundred and sixty-seven copies of questionnaires were disseminated to respondents, out of which three hundred and thirty-five copies were returned, representing 90.3%. The data was analyzed using frequency tables, simple percentages and means scores. From the analysis, the findings revealed that the most sought information material in the library under study is books (textbooks). The result also shows that information materials are acquired mainly by purchases and gifts or donations. The study indicated that information materials like books, journals, and reference materials are more current than other information materials in the library and that collection development policy is oral and not well written as a document and encompasses only acquisition. Obsolete materials, worn out materials, inadequate professionals, problem of storage facilities, lack of sufficient funds, and lack of collection development policy and duplication of titles are some of the difficulties encountered in developing library collections. Based on the analysis findings, it was suggested that libraries ought to have a written collection development policy that will embrace acquisition, selection, weeding, gifts and exchanges, there ought to be consistency staff training in workshops and seminars, library staff should consult with lecturers in order to get information on their curriculum so as to acquire materials that will suit the curriculum, employment of qualified and experienced library staff, provision of space for the library to enable it to have archives where it can deposit outdated materials. The study concluded that adequate and efficient assessment of acquisition exercises and collection development in academic libraries would effectively improve the performance of the university's research output.

Keywords: Academic Library, Acquisition, Collection Development, Joseph Ayo Babalola University

INTRODUCTION

An academic library is defined as a library committed to an establishment of higher learning, a significant function of which is research and the advancement of scholarship in an exceedingly wide selection of subjects. It is a vital service or section of operation set up to spot information materials and facilities for study, teaching and research that are carried out in the institution. The main function of an academic library is to serve as the heart of the parent institution in carrying out its objectives. It is a crucial intellectual resource of the educational community, and helps it fulfill the information needs and to stimulate erudition and research (Rajendran and Rathinasabapathy, 2005). The library caters for the information desires of the community, through the supply of reading materials for the varied programmes of the establishment (Igbinosa and Idiodi, 2002). Ajibero (1995) opined that the academic library is the heart of an academic establishment. He asserts that what all-academic libraries have in common notwithstanding nation or history is their basic position, roles, aims and objectives. The reputation of these libraries depends highly on the library facilities they offer their patrons in terms of information resources. As information carriers become varied, this places a challenge on academic libraries. Hazen (2000) argued that changes in the characteristics of records, methods of analysis, and in the structure of tertiary education are changing the operations of academic libraries. These changes outline lots of the shifting context among academic libraries and their operations. It is unequivocally essential for a library to possess the resources that will enable it to meet its goals. The Library buildings, well-trained staff and modern information storage and retrieval system can only be valued if excellent services are given to users. These services cannot be achieved in the absence of the acquisition of relevant information materials. The objective of any academic library is to support the teaching, learning and research activities of the parent institution. It is an objective which is achieved through a systematic acquisition, development and organization of all forms of recorded human knowledge and resources sharing. It is a planning and decision-making process. A library's acquisition and collection development efforts cannot be effective unless it is cost effective. It is a major function of Library and Information profession. Academic libraries all over the globe still acquire and maintain massive book collections while managing other formats. In spite of the advocacy to wipe out print materials and the appearance of the digital paradigm, printed books still have a principal role in library collections and publishing industry (Kanwal 2005; Carr 2007). The main reason for the existence of libraries and indeed library staff is providing the information materials that a person wants regardless of its format or location. Academic libraries are struggling with diminishing funds for acquisition of library resources. The price of books continues to rise, forcing many libraries to reduce or completely cancel subscriptions. Joseph Ayo Babalola University Library is not spared from the challenges with regard to funds to procure information resources. (Simui and Kanyengo, 2001 and Simui, 2004) echoed these concerns. The financial difficulties faced by academic libraries may render their role in institutions of higher learning irrelevant, as in most cases, they do not meet the information needs of both the academic staff and researchers in their respective fields. Luther, (2008), cited in (Iivonen et al, 2009). State that, an essential part of academic libraries' everyday life is analyzing their function and impact. Library staff must be able to show that researchers use the resources provided to them in the best possible way, and that library funding benefits the institution's research, teaching and studying. Administrators of academic institutions expect to get a return on investment in libraries because; most of the libraries budget is spent on resource acquisition. Therefore, resources in the library's collections should be reflected in the bibliographical references cited in student's projects undertake in the institutions. Acquisition of essential information resources and collection development may lead to maximum utilization of library stocks and help researchers to produce quality research papers. This can be achieved if library staff take keen interest in understanding their patron's information seeking behavior. This will help them in the

acquisition and development of their collection. It is against this backdrop that this study is carried out to assess the acquisition and collection development activities in Joseph Ayo Babalola University Library.

HISTORY OF JOSEPH AYO BABALOLA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The University Library, which was established at the same time the University was born, has been playing supportive roles in the actualization of the mission and vision of the institution. The collections of the main University Library are made up of twenty-two thousand books in different fields, and two thousand serial titles. The library is partially automated using KOHA Integrated Library Management software. The Cataloguing function is fully automated while the Circulation activities are fairly automated. Other functions of the library are manually done. The Library has an e library, which is connected to the internet. The library was established to provide information resources in support of teaching, learning and research in the university. The objectives of the library are to collect and preserve the most up to date materials for teaching, research and to collect and preserve information resources in books and non-book formats, and to give user-oriented services to its users. The sections in the library include the circulation section, the cataloguing section, serials section, reference section and reprography section and a bindery section. The Library also has overflows in all the colleges, namely, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Law, College of Management Sciences, College of Environmental Sciences and College of Natural Sciences. All these college libraries are well equipped with books, journals and information communication technology facilities. The University College of Health Sciences Library is also underway.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS

Throughout history, libraries have faced the problem of insufficient and obsolete collections. The provision of information materials to clientele regardless of their format is the occupation and main reason for the existence of libraries and the profession of Library staffship. A variety of efforts is constantly undertaken by academic libraries to acquire information materials that will fulfill the expected needs of users in terms of adequacy, currency and availability. The constant review of library materials is mandatory for ensuring and maintaining a strong and active library collection of current interest to users. An assessment will be undertaken to determine whether the collection is meeting its objectives for the parent institution, how adequate is the collection in serving its users, in what areas is the collection deficient and what remains to be addressed to develop the collection for maximum performance. There have been some previous related studies carried out in the area of acquisition, collection development and assessment in University Libraries but none of these studies has examined the status of the collections of Joseph Ayo Babalola University Library in terms of adequacy, currency, availability and methods of acquisition. This is the gap, which the present study intends to fill. Several studies have been carried out on book acquisition and collection development in university libraries but none have focused on the experience of acquisition and collection development in Joseph Ayo Babalola University Library. Despite all efforts at developing and acquiring information materials that are adequate, current and fully meet the requirements of universities curricular, it has been limited by a number of problems and challenges. The awareness of these challenges is therefore crucial for any university library. This indicates that there are still areas, which need to be addressed to present a well-balanced collection. It is in the light of this need that this study which is designed to assess the acquisition activities in Joseph Ayo Babalola University Library was carried out.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The general purpose of the study is to assess the acquisition and collection development activities in Joseph Ayo Babalola University Library, Ikeji- Arakeji. The specific objectives are as follow:

1. To examine the adequacy of the collections of Joseph Ayo Babalola University Library.
2. To evaluate the methods of acquisition of the information resources by the University Library.
3. To evaluate the currency of the information materials in the Library
4. To examine the Collection Development Policies of the Library.
5. To evaluate the problems and challenges faced in the development of the collections.
6. To examine the strategies that could enhance and improve acquisition and collection development activities in the University Library

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study is steered by these subsequent analysis questions:

1. How adequate are the collections of Joseph Ayo Babalola University Library?
2. What are the methods of acquisition of the information resources in the Library?
3. How current are the collections of University Library?
4. What are the ingredients of Collection Development Policies of the Library?
5. What are the problems and challenges faced in developing the collections?
6. What are the strategies that could enhance and improve the acquisition activities in the Library?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The findings of this study are of ample usefulness. The discoveries would be helpful to library professionals, the students, the academic staff, other researchers, the governing council and owners of universities. As libraries depreciate in collection assessment, users suffer. Therefore, the study of this nature is required to work out the magnitude of the difficulties touching on acquisition and collection development and assessment and methods of handling them. For library staff, the result of the findings can assist them to form ways of challenging the issues in the areas of collection development and assessment. This study is additionally geared toward alerting library staff on the necessity for a well-written Collection Development Policy and constant assessment of library collection which will oft times satisfy the needs of the users. For students, lecturers and researchers, the findings offer them with basic and accurate facts to determine the extent to which the aims and objectives of libraries in terms of assessment of collection has helped students and researchers and the institutions. Similarly, the studies will be of immense value to the governing bodies and owners of institutions as it will enable them understand and appreciate their budgeting inadequacies for library acquisition and collection development to enable them correct these inadequacies. Finally, the study will be useful for other academic purposes by providing analysis from which information could be obtained for future research in related areas of study.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is limited to the collections of Joseph Ayo Babalola University Library. The study involves the users of the library, which consist of the lectures, and students of the university, the library and administrative staff of the university. The study is delimited to the following areas; the adequacy of collections, the methods of acquisition, and the degree of currency of the collections, availability of Collection Development Policy, problems and strategies for enhancing acquisition activities in the library.

CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

The acquisition of information resources in print format is an important function in Libraries. Even in the advent of information technology and the subsequent emergence of the digital paradigm, print materials still have a central place in library collection and publishing industry. (Carr, 2007). Acquisition is the process of securing materials for the library through purchase, gifts and donation or through exchange programmes. (Evans, 2000). Once materials have been selected by staff or requested by users, the acquisition process begins- that is locating the right item, ordering it and processing the item and paperwork once they arrive. Although acquisition procedures may vary depending on the library's mission and resources, all libraries have some goals in common. According to the Arizona State library (2011), these goals include acquiring materials as quickly and economically as possible and minimizing the amount of paperwork, filling and follow up needed. Effective working relationships with vendors are very important as well. The nitty-gritty of an effective acquisition include collection orders, searching and verifying bibliographic information, choosing an option for placing orders, assigning a purchase order, placing an order, bookkeeping, receiving materials, returning books/materials if necessary, processing the books and making payments. Some of these acquisition processes might not apply to all information materials. The slow rate of book production in the country has also created a problem in acquiring quality materials for the library. Haider(1995) as cited by Ameen(2008) addresses the issue of insufficient collections in University libraries and suggest ways of improving cooperation. He found out that acquisition of materials is largely based on imports either directly or through local seller. Acquisition through this method is almost totally directed and controlled by availability of materials in the market, leaving only a limited systematic collection building. Collection development has recently become a very popular term in library and information centres as a need for an efficient and balance collection. It includes everything that goes into acquiring materials, including selection, ordering and payment. It is a sequence of events that features forecasting, administration and control. Collection development is a foundation, upon which other library services are built. According to Eguavon and Ochai (2002), collection development is a planned, systematic development of a collection based on the objectives of the library. The task of achieving development in a library's collection as long as the concept is insufficiently operationalized is very difficult to measure. Library collection development has been outlined as the method of designing and achieving a balanced collection of library materials in several formats as well as books, periodicals, online resources and other media (Wikipedia, 2007). Collection development is defined by Evans (1979) as the process of identifying the strengths and weaknesses of library collections in terms of patrons' needs and community resources and attempting to correct the weaknesses if any. This requires the constant examination of the library's resources and the constant study of both needs and changes in the community to be served. Furthermore, Elaturoti (1995) sees collection development as the process of assessing the strengths and weaknesses in a collection and then creating a plan to correct the weakness and maintain the strengths. According to Ogbonna (2000), collection development involves planned and systematic building of library collection. He further explains that through collection development, the weaknesses of a library collection are identified and then strengthened. Library staff and library staff develop library collection by acquiring materials over a period of time based on assessment of the information needs of the library users. Furthermore, Magrill (1989) emphasized that there is however, more to the growth of a collection than simply acquiring materials; someone must decide which materials will be acquired and through which methods.

The library's main objective is to select, maintain and provide access to relevant and representative information sources. In order to facilitate this, many authors agree on the need for every library to have a written collection development policy. Buckland's (1963) argues that all library operations that primarily facilitate the exploitation of the collections and those directly consumed by the end users of

the library have their roots in the collection development policy. Ifidon (1997) perceives that this policy is a sine qua non for any library that wants to build a functional collection whether by traditional methods or in an information age. Therefore, a collection development policy is to provide guidance to staff when selecting and deselecting resources for the local collection. In this case, it serves as a guideline for each of the stages of material handling such as selection, acquisition, processing, housing, weeding, retention, preservation, relegation and discarding of all types of library materials. It also clarifies the purpose and scope of local collections and allows selection decisions to be evaluated. However, Aina (2004), opined that collection development policy would ensure that all information materials acquired are relevant to the the users of the library; thus ensuring that the materials acquired are effectively used. Eguavoen (2002) put it in his write up that collection development policy in any Library should be reviewed after five years, because things and people do change. Ikem (1995) explains that collection development policy is the vehicle through which the library achieves the goals of its readers' services. On the operational level, information selection and acquisition are determined first by the official policy statement, which explains the manner in which the library is to go about the business of collection development. It addresses questions such as what should be the policy of the institution regarding the foreign books, purchase of rare books, research materials and use of information techniques in accessing information. The policy should ensure that library collection consists of well balanced stock among other general materials: books, journals, newspapers, government publications, pamphlets and suitably selected reference works. It should address the application of modern catalogue and internet to satisfy the information needs of the institution. The collection development policy establishes ground rules for coming up with and budgeting, selection and acquisition of library materials. This is in agreement with Poole as reported by Cutter (1978) that it is important to remember when one is trying to select the best that there are as many kinds of best as there are kinds of readers. A policy must reflect the vision and mission of the parent institution. For an effective collection development policy, there must be a document that clearly states the mission and vision of the library (Aina 2004). A policy document provides a sound foundation for future planning thereby assisting in determining priorities especially when financial resources are limited. This provides a basis for the fair allocation of resources and in accounting for library fund by explaining the rationale behind acquisition activities. Having a proper publication to ask ensures continuity and avoids confusion. In general, a collection development policy can help the library make the best use of its limited resources by indicating who will be served, for what purpose and with what type of materials. Those who participate in the exercise gain knowledge of the existing collection and become able to make appropriate reference referrals. According to the American Library Association (ALA) as mentioned by Carter (1974), three elements are very important in a collection development policy .They are general overview, which is the introduction and general collection; elaborated analysis of subject collections; and a miscellaneous section. Formal policy statement can be useful in making the case for the library when dealing with its users, administrators and donor agencies. They support the stated objectives of institution demonstrating accountability and commitment to agreed goals. Its compilation involves the participation of both users and administration hence improving communication between the library and its clientele. It serves as a contract with users, which demonstrate the individual within what they can expect of the library both in terms of collections and of the service. Therefore, the collection development policy acts as a public relation tool for the library to its sponsors and other stakeholders. Ogbonna (2000) opined that the collection development policy guides the library and provides direction and guidance on selection and acquisition of library materials. Collection development policy remains a framework and set of parameter within which the staff and users work. According to Biblarz (2001). It serves as a communication channel, prevents censorship and a guide to weeding. The policy acts as a guide for future planning in the library. Therefore, a written collection development policy is a sine qua non for any library that wants to build a functional collection by traditional methods or in an information

age. (Ifidon 1997) in his paper titled "Roles of Gifts, Donations and Exchanges in Collection Development" donated materials are expected to meet the same standards of quality and relevance to the collection as new titles are purchased. Magrill and Corbin (1989) report that for many libraries, gift materials and funds have been very important in building their collections. The library collection may be enhanced by solicited and unsolicited gifts and gift of money. He further stated that solicited gifts range from free vertical file materials routinely requested by clerks in various public or technical services departments to the rare books, manuscript and other important collections that come to a library only after sustained and tactful solicitation by high level staff members. The exchange of materials between and among libraries has a long history and in some libraries, has contributed significantly to the development of valuable collection. The library is supposed to be adequately funded to procure the necessary information resources to perform the varied functions. Lack of fund from various governments has been noted as one of the causes for poor performance of these libraries. Ajibero(2004) and Sawyerr(2005), concur that the problem of funding for academic libraries in the third world countries has made donor support to stand out as one of the major sources of sustenance and even survival. Garbers(1998) has emphasized that the increasing cost of books and journals with decreasing government support has reduced many libraries to museum-like repositories of outdated books. Journals are no longer received regularly. Hence, most academic libraries are no longer capable of supporting research, learning and teaching. While government is cutting down the support and imposing various economic stabilization policies, at the same time, they are equally pressured by the increased enrolment and to maintain quality levels without commensurate increase in resources. This makes the need for donor support quite attractive and at times compelling. The collection analysis and assessment are important in ensuring efficient, effective and balanced collections. Slote (1997) discusses collection assessment in academic libraries and asserts that this is where some of the most serious problems exist, due to critical space shortages and rapid growth of academic institutions. Pauch and Popp (1997) maintain that accountability, outcome measurement, and assessment are the subject of discussion in higher education, and coupled with the fact that libraries collections consume a large proportion of the budget; libraries must ensure that what is collected matches or meets the expressed needs and information expectation of the academic community. Assessment of collection is an important component of a comprehensive collection management program. Collection must grow and change to effect evolution in both the scholarship of each discipline and the curricular needs of the institution. Likewise serial subscription must regularly be reviewed. However, Ifidon (1997) explains that collection evaluation is the assessment of the extent to which a collection meets the library's objectives. The aims of the exercise are to determine the scope/depth and usefulness of the collection, test the effectiveness, utility and practical applicability of the collection development policy, assess the adequacy of the collection and thereby highlighting the inadequacies and suggest ways of rectifying them, reallocate resources so that the areas that really need them can receive greater attention; convince the library's authorities that the allocated resources are also inadequate; and to identify areas where weeding is required for an evaluation to be properly done. It is necessary to map out the criteria against which the assessment is being done. Futhermore, Ifidon (1997) pointed out three commonest evaluators which include external consultants, accrediting bodies and library staff. An external consultant can be appointed with a brief to determine the adequacy of the collection. He develops a collection policy where there is none, evolves policies and procedures for appropriate funding of the various areas of the collection, develops the appropriate division of responsibility to form the selection of library materials between the library/teaching staff and the discarding and re-allocation of library materials. The second being that the accrediting body is appointed by the library's superior agency such as the Ministry of Education or Commission for higher Education; Nigerian Universities commission (NUC), Nigerian Legal Council, Nigerian Medical and Dental Association, and others. This imposes a lot of responsibilities on the library that should make sure that the collection reflects the wants for

certification. Accreditation can be referred to as the vehicle to monitor the quality of education. The basic job of the report from this type of evaluation is that, most of the members are not library staff and therefore their report should be taken with a grain of salt. The third type is the one done by the library staff themselves. Although the library staff have all necessary information to do the assignment, there may be an element of subjectivity on their part especially if there are in the report some negative aspects that are likely to be to their disadvantage. There are many benefits derivable from collection assessment. Lamb (2004) submits that collection evaluation helps library staff to review the strengths and weaknesses of the entire collection through graphic representation and that the idea is to look at the quality, quantity and condition of the collection. According to Franklin, Essex, and Hamilton (1999), collection evaluation can be used in budgeting, by comparing the collection in a given subject area against the curriculum in that area. As Pastine (1996) observes that an academic library's reputation is no longer primarily based on quantity and number of volumes held but on quality of the collections along with access capabilities.

The function of Collection Development in academic libraries especially in developing countries is faced with some problems therefore making assessment processes difficult and cumbersome. Generally, it is not possible to procure materials published overseas without getting the appropriate foreign currency. Presently, getting foreign exchange in a country poses a lot of problems and when one succeeds, the rate is often very high. The implication is far –reaching. It means that libraries that want to acquire foreign books must have to pay at least thrice the publisher's price. This is usually detrimental to academic libraries in developing countries. Also, poor management of the library budget, financial mismanagement by the academic administrators and library managers put serious problems on maintaining adequate and balanced collection. The non-existence of a well written Collection Development and Acquisition Policies is also a major problem. Libraries do not have written or articulate acquisition policy. It is important that libraries should have this policy. (Ogbonna, 2000) pointed out some problems which include underdeveloped book industry, poor government fiscal measures, censorship, poor communication infrastructure, publication explosion, preservation problems, accommodation, poor funding, and facilities and unavailability of standard bibliographies. According to Ifidon (1996), a well-articulated and consistent collection development strategy is necessary for any meaningful library development. Therefore a well written Library collection Development Policy cannot be ignored or overlooked.

REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL STUDIES

A number of studies have been conducted on collection assessment and acquisition in academic libraries especially in the University system. Adedibu (2006) conducted a study on "Collection Development Policy: The case of University of Ilorin Library". From the responses, it was obvious that academic staff in conjunction with the professional staff which is about 15.25% of the population used were responsible for making selection for the library. The University Librarian, faculty members, Acquisition and collection development librarian and all individuals who had relevant subjects background played active roles in making recommendations to the library. The paper recommended that there was an urgent need for a written acquisition and collection development policy, the establishment of an acquisitions and collection development committee which will give professional advice on the type of edition, publishers, contents, language on all the recommendations received from all the faculties, while the faculty representatives and students representatives will give advice on recommendations received, whether the collection is relevant to the courses. Furthermore, Oseghale (2008) carried out an investigation on Faculty Opinion as a Collection Evaluation Method using Redeemer's University library as a case study. He discovered that 47% of the population occasionally found the materials relevant,

while 17% hardly found them relevant. He further observes that 46% of the population sufficiently found the collection reflective of the curriculum. He also notes that 43% of the population found the collection very current. The researcher's investigation is relevant to an extent because he tackles extensively, the areas being looked into in this research because the issues of currency and relevance in the use of library resources are determined by the user of the library. With regards to effectiveness of library resources, Ezeala (2009) carried out an investigation on the Effectiveness of Library Resources in the Agricultural Research Institutes in Nigeria. The population for the study consisted of research officers in the 14 Agricultural research Institutes in Nigeria. The researcher therefore opined that their collections are unsatisfactory; that the libraries are not meeting user expectations. The books that are available are not current as reported by the respondents. The researcher also observed that 76.6% of the respondents indicated that the libraries are ineffective. The study was found to be relevant because it would widen people's knowledge and pose as a challenge to researchers to do more research in that area.

RESEARCH METHODS

The study uses an Assessment Survey Design. The design is used to assess the acquisition activities in the Joseph Ayo Babalola University Library. The work seeks to find out the opinions held by the university community and users of the Library by collating and analyzing data from the lecturers, students, and other users of the library, the library staff and other administrative staff in the university who are considered to be the representatives of the entire university community. A sample size of 330 persons comprising lecturers, students and other users and 37 library and administrative staff of the university was used for the study. A structured questionnaire was used as instruments of data collection. Two different questionnaires were designed for the study. The first questionnaire is for the library users, comprising of the lecturers, the students and other users while the second questionnaire is for the library and administrative staff of the university. The self-designed questionnaire titled "An Assessment of Acquisition Activities in Academic Libraries Questionnaire " (AAALQ) was developed for the study. The questionnaire item was divided into two sections. Section one was designed to collect relevant background information about the respondents with respect to their designation, college and department while section two was used to elicit information on the research question of the study. Section two was subdivided into (4) sub-sections: A to D. Section A which contains 10 items sought to inquire into the extent to which the library collection reflects the curriculum of the University. Section B, which contains 10 items sought information on the extent of currency of the library collection. Section C sought information on problems encountered. Section D was on finding out strategies for improvement on collection development. The second questionnaire was designed for the Library and other administrative staff of the university. It was sub-divided into six (7) sections: A to G. Section A which contains 10 items sought to inquire into the extent of adequacy of the collection in relation to the curricular of the university. Section B sought information on how materials are acquired in the library. Section C sought information on the extent of currency of information resources. Section D inquired into the Collection Development policies available in the library. Section E looked into the assessment processes available. Section F sought information on problems encountered in collection development activities. Section G was aimed at finding out strategies for improvement on collection development in the library. Each respondent was required to answer the questions by selecting appropriate response(s) option from the range of pre-scheduled answers by ranking their choices. Sometimes, respondents were required to suggest answers by themselves in the column provided for such.

METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The research questions formed the basis for the data analysis using descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Frequencies, percentages (%), and mean scores were used to analyze each item in the questionnaire for the purpose of answering the research questions. For the responses on a 4-point Likert type scale, a mid point mean of 2.5 which is the criterion mean was accepted as a positive response. This point was chosen because the average of the individual mean score is 2.5.

i.e $4+3+2+1$

$4 = 2.5$

Any mean score that ranged from 2.5 and above was regarded as positive and accepted while below 2.5 was regarded as negative and rejected. Furthermore, any percentage that ranged from 50% and above was regarded as positive and accepted while below 50% was regarded as negative and rejected. The percentage is analyzed with the formula below

Weight of responses

$$\frac{\text{Number of responses}}{\text{Total number of responses}} \times 100$$

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

The data collected from the questionnaires are presented and analyzed using frequency tables, simple percentages and means. The presentation and analysis are done bearing in mind the five research questions guiding the study. Three hundred and thirty (330) questionnaires were distributed to the users of the library which comprised lecturers, students and other users of the library. Two hundred and ninety eight (298) were returned and correctly filled. Thirty-seven (37) questionnaires were also distributed to the library and administrative staff of the university. The whole questionnaire were returned and correctly filled. This indicates a total percentage of 90.3% which is considered appropriate for use.

Research Question 1: How adequate are the collections of Joseph Ayo Babalola University Library.

Table 1: Mean Responses of the Library users (Lecturers, Students other users) and the library and other administrative staff of the University on the Adequacy of the Library collections

S/N	INFORMTION RESOURCES	Library Users Comprising Lecturers, Students and other Library Users 298						Library Staff and other Administrative staff 37					
		VA	A	NA	NVA	Mean	Decision	VA	A	NA	NVA	Mean	Decision
1	Books	220	52	28	-	3.65	A	8	16	6	-	3.03	A
2	Reference materials	93	171	27	7	3.17	A	5	20	4	1	2.95	A
3	Journals	58	175	38	7	3.15	A	2	11	14	1	2.43	R
4	Computer Resources	76	141	67	14	2.94	A	-	6	11	11	1.92	R
5	Periodicals	40	123	119	16	2.63	A	4	23	5	-	2.57	A
6	Manuscripts	31	72	175	20	2.38	R	-	-	14	13	1.65	R

7	Computer CDs	28	107	114	49	2.38	R	-	4	12	14	1.35	R
8	Government Publication	40	65	156	37	2.36	R	1	3	23	-	2.14	R
9	Serials	33	52	190	16	2.30	R	-	-	14	15	1.16	R
10	Magazines	7	64	88	139	1.80	R	4	23	5	-	2.57	A

Key A- Accepted R- Rejected

Table 1 shows the adequacy of library collections in Joseph Ayo Babalola University Library. The results shows that the information resources available are books, reference materials, journals, computer resources, periodicals, manuscripts, computer CDs, Government publications, International Agency publications and magazines. Responses from lecturers and library staff respectively indicates that books (3.65,3.03), Reference materials (3.17,2.95) and periodicals (2.63,2.57) are adequate. The results also show that the most adequate information materials in the libraries are books. On the other hand, library staff indicate that journals (2.43) and computer resources (1.92) are not very adequate while the lecturers indicate they are adequate with mean weights of 3.15 and 2.94 respectively. The two respondents also have different views about the adequacy of magazines with mean weights of 1.80 and 2.57 respectively. The result also shows that manuscripts (2.38, 1.65), Tapes (2.38,1.35), government publications (2.36,2.14),microfilms (2.30,1.16) are not very adequate.

Research Question 2: What are the methods of acquisition of information resources of the library?

Table 2: Methods of acquisition of information resources (Library and administrative staff) 37

S/n	Methods of Acquisition of Information Resources	Frequency	Percentage	Total no of Respondents
1	Gifts	36	97.3%	37
2	Purchase	36	97.3%	37
3	Donation	10	27.0%	37
4	Exchanges	-	-	37

An analysis of the responses indicates that 97.3% of the respondents acquire information materials by purchase and gifts. Ten percent (27.0%) of the respondents acquire materials through donation

Research Question 3: How current are the collections of the university Library?

Table 3: Currency of library materials

S/N	Information Resources	Lecturer, Students and other Library users 298				Library Staff and other Administrative staff 37			
		F (C)	%	F (NC)	%	F (C)	%	F (NC)	%
1	Reference Materials	265	88.9%	46	15.4%	22	59.5%	13	35.1%
2	Books	252	84.6%	33	11.1%	19	51.4%	6	16.2%

3	Journals	242	81.2%	56	18.8%	13	35%	14	37.8%
4	Government Publications	198	66.4%	100	33.6%	5	13.5%	11	29.7%
5	Periodicals	186	62.4%	112	37.6%	-	-	30	81.1%
6	Manuscripts	153	51.3%	145	51.3%	7	18.95	19	51.4%
7	Microfilms	131	44%	167	56%	11	29.7%	10	27.0%
8	Computer resources	153	51.3%	77	25.8%	4	10.8%	28	75.75
9	Magazines	167	56%	75	25.2%	-	-	30	81.1%
10	Computer CDs	126	42.3%	116	38.9%	3	8.1%	30	81.1%

Key- C- current, NC- not current

From table 3, it was discovered that books, reference materials and journals are more current than government publication, periodicals, manuscripts, microfilms, computer resources, magazines and tapes(audio and video) looking at the responses of the lecturers and library staff. Their percentages are 88.9%, 84.6%, 81.2% for lecturers and 59.5%, 51.4% and 35% for library staff. From the responses of Library staff, it was discovered that periodicals and magazines are not current with their percentages as 81.1% and 81.1% respectively.

Research Question 4: What are the collection development policies available in the libraries?

Table 4: Availability of collection development policies. Library and Administrative staff 37

S/n	Library Activities	Frequency YES	Percentage	Frequency NO	Percentage
1	Acquisition	15	40.5%	3	8.1%
2	Selection	1	2.7%	1	2.7
3	Gifts and Exchanges	2	5.4%	3	8.1%
4	Weeding	1	2.7%	-	-

The table 4 indicates that the Library under study have collection development policy in the area of acquisition (40.5%). However, according to the responses from the library staff, selection, gift and exchanges and weeding has 2.7%, 5.4%, and 2.7% respectively, which shows a low response rate on availability of collection development policies in those areas.

Research Question 5: What are the problems encountered in developing the collections of the university libraries?

Table 5: Problems affecting Collection Building

S/N	Problems affecting collection building	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Decision
1	Outdated materials	38	92	53	115	2.18	R
2	Problem of storage facilities	24	105	111	58	2.32	R

3	Materials not relevant to the University's curricular	18	112	118	50	2.33	R
4	Worn out materials	79	56	87	76	2.46	A
5	Inadequate Professionals/library staff	94	85	31	88	2.78	A
6	Duplication of titles	130	144	17	7	3.33	A
7	Lack of funds	24	7	-	-	3.16	A
8	Lack of collection development policy	26	7	-	-	3.38	A
9	Lack of cooperation from parent organization	17	14	3	-	3.14	A
10	Resistance to change	9	16	6	-	2.59	A

Table 5 depicts a picture of the problems Library staff and lecturers encounter in developing and acquiring information from the library. The table revealed in a descending order that they encountered lack of collection development policy (3.38), duplication of titles (3.33), lack of funds (3.16), lack of cooperation from parent organization (3.14), inadequate professional/Library staff (2.78), resistance to change (2.59), worn out materials (2.46), materials not relevant to the University's curricular (2.33), problem of storage facilities (2.32) and out dated materials (2.18). From the table, it shows that lack of collection development and duplication of titles is a predominant problem based on the mean score on library staff and lecturers.

Research Question 6: What are the strategies that could be used to enhance the acquisition activities of the library under study?

Table 6: Strategies for Effective Acquisition Activities.

S/N	Strategies for effective acquisition Activities	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Decision
1	The collection development policy of the library should be followed	265	23	10	-	3.86	A
2	Good record of resources available should be kept	278	10	10	-	3.71	A
3	Staff training	221	67	10	-	3.71	A
4	Provision of grants and aids by government and parent organization to the library	199	93	6	-	3.65	A
5	Adequate feedback	167	131	-	-	3.56	A

	should be rendered to the library authorities						
6	Effective communication between library staff and users	153	81	64	-	3.30	A
7	Library staff change of attitude towards collection development	25	7	-	-	3.27	A
8	Provision of sufficient funds	18	14	2	-	3.19	A
9	Employment of qualified library staff by university	20	12	-	2	3.19	A

The data analyzed in table 6 indicates that in order to improve acquisition activities in academic libraries, the collection development policy should be followed (3.86), good records of resources available should be kept (3.71), staff training and orientation should be held (3.71), provision of grants and aids by government and parent organization to the library(3.65), adequate feedback should be rendered to the library and authorities (3.56), effective communication between library staff and users (3.30), library staff change of attitude towards collection development (3.27), provision of sufficient funds by (3.19), and employment of qualified library staff by university. The table also indicates that strategies such as the collection development policy should be followed (3.86) and employment of qualified library staff by universities (3.19) has the highest and lowest response respectively.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The discussion of the discovery of the study is grouped into the following headings:

Adequacy of the collections of Joseph Ayo Babalola University

The study showed that the highest information materials in the library are books (textbooks). This is quite revealing and the finding shows that textbooks are quite indispensable in any library. This finding agrees with the observation made by Oyegade, (2003) that books are of great value as well as veritable means of proficiency and excellence in all human endeavours.

Methods of acquisition of Information materials in the Library

In finding out the methods of acquisition of information materials, the result revealed that in the library materials are acquired mainly by purchase and gifts. This concurs with the views of Magril and Corbin (1989) that for many libraries, gifts materials have been very important in building library collections. This also agrees with the findings of Ajidahun (2008) who found that the acquisition of books in forty two Universities he studied is mainly through purchase. Therefore maximum care should be taken in selecting and acquiring up to date materials through this avenue of acquisition. The finding also showed that majority of the donations from individuals, government or international organizations are not very useful. This fact is in line with the view of Njuguna, 2000 that some of the donations are very useful, while the majority is not. Therefore, libraries should screen information materials that come in through donations in order to avoid outdated materials.

Currency of Materials in the Library

The study found out that book, reference materials and journals are more current than other information materials available in the library. It is therefore not surprising to note that users of the library consult these materials more often. This is in contrast with the views of Garber (1998) who emphasized that the increasing cost of books and journals with decreasing financial support has reduced many libraries to museum-like repositories of outdated books. However, enough budgets should be mapped out for the purchase of current and up to date materials.

Collection Development Policies

From the results of the study, a collection development policy is not available in the library. This finding supports the view of Ifidon (1997) who perceives that a functional collection development policy is to provide guidance to staff when selecting and deselecting resources for the local collection. He further opines that it serves as a guideline for acquisition. It was also discovered that collection development policies are not very effective in these libraries. Well written acquisition policies should be provided in the library and other academic libraries. These policies should strictly be followed when selecting and deselecting library resources.

Problems encountered in developing the Library collection.

From the result of the study which invariably were derived from the respondents in research question 5, the following factors were identified: Lack of funds, Lack of cooperation from parent organization, problem of storage facilities, duplication of titles, worn out materials, Inadequate professionals and library staff, lack of collection development policy, materials not relevant to the university's curricular and resistance to change. These findings are in consonance with some of the problems pointed out by Ogbonna (2000) which include: preservation problems, accommodation, poor funding, lack of collection development policy, lack of written development policy, lack of equipment and facilities. He further mentions that the obligations of libraries cannot be totally fulfilled unless there is adequate fund for the library. The problem of funding supports the view of Ajibero (2004) and Sawyer (2005) who concurs that lack of funds from various governments has been noted as one of the causes for poor performance of academic libraries. This finding shows that serious attention should be made to correct these identified problems.

Strategies to improve Acquisition Activities.

On the issue of strategies that can improve acquisition activities, the respondents agreed that all the strategies suggested ranging from training and orientation of staff, provision of grants and aids by government, effective communication between library staff and users, training of staff, provision of collection development policy, adequate feedback, library staff change of attitude towards collection development are appropriate for effective collection development. The issue of providing collection development policy supports Hazen (1995)'s view that a collection development policy serves as a contract with users which demonstrate the individual within what they can expect of the library both in terms of collections and of the service. A thorough planning and execution by library staff in developing current and adequate information resources that will embrace the curriculum of the university is also recommended. These mentioned problems are the crux of the matter rather than misplacement of priority by management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the subsequent recommendations are put together

- a. Libraries should have a written collection development policy that will embrace acquisition, selection, weeding, gifts and exchanges. This will facilitate a consistent and balanced growth of the library resources.
- b. There should be constant staff training /orientation on the issues of acquisition activities and evaluation.
- c. Library staff should consult with academic staff in order to get information on the institutions curriculum thus acquiring materials that will suit the curriculum.
- d. Library collection should be evaluated at least quarterly.
- e. The library should employ more qualified library staff to meet with the growing needs of the University and its users.
- f. There is need to provide adequate space for the library to enable it have archives where it can deposit outdated materials.
- g. Emphasis should be made on training of library staff in order to acquire all the skills on acquisition and collection development. There should be provision of on the job training for library staff especially acquisitions library staff.
- h. The library should seek for more financial aid from donor organizations. The University Administrators should request assistance from the Education Trust Fund for the provision of current and adequate collections.

CONCLUSION

It should be noted that adequate and effective assessment of acquisition activities and collection development in academic libraries could effectively support and improve a wide range of library staff, lecturers and students research output. This study has attempted to assess the adequacy of materials, methods of acquisition, currency of materials, availability of collection development policies, challenges and strategies that could enhance the acquisition activities in university libraries. Findings from the study have shown that information resources in university libraries such as books, reference materials, journals, computer resources and periodicals are adequate hence there should be an increased number of materials such as manuscripts, tapes (audio and video), Government publication, microfilms and magazines. The study revealed that majority of the materials are current such as books, reference materials, journals and the collection development policy available encompasses only acquisition and oral. The University libraries acquire their materials through purchase and gifts; hence they are advised to consider other avenues such as donations and exchanges in order to have adequate information materials. However, with all the benefits inherent in having a good collection, there are still a lot of problems militating against developing a good collection in academic libraries such as duplication of titles, inadequate professionals and library staff, resistance to change, outdated materials, lack of funds and lack of collection development policy among others. In order to achieve an effective and efficient library, adequate attention must be given to the strategies and recommendation given in the study.

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